companies may not be able to arrange for necessary resources to provide this facility to old dealers.

Complaint Against depot Manager Ambala Cantt.

2738. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaint against Depot Manager HPC Ambala Cantt. is pending regarding theft of Lubricating Oil through bogus invoices, sale of furnace oil to bogus/closed units on Bogus C forms and adulteration of kerosene in Petrol etc.

(b) whether the excise and taxation department of Haryana Government is also conducting enquiry on this issue;

(c) what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken against the said Depot Incharge/Manager;

(d) whether the Corporation is going to give some reward to such officers for this said bravery; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. had received a pseudonymous complaint that the Depot Incharge of Ambala Depot has allegedly indulged in irregularities like release of Furance Oil to closed units, adulteration of petrol with kerosene and release of adulterated petrol to dealers, release of lube oil against fabricate challans, selling of Lubes without bills and challans, etc. The complaint against officers/staff was investigated by the Corporation. It was found that the documentation procedures laid down for sale of lubricants were not adhered to. The operating status of a few establishments from which orders for Furnace oil had been received, was not verified resulting in sale of product to a non-operative unit. The allegation regarding adulteration of petrol was not substantiated. Disciplinary action was initiated in accordance with the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules of the Corporation against the Depot Manager and the penalty of "withholding annual increment" in 1996 was imposed on him. Government is not aware of any inquiry conducted by Excise & Taxation Deptt. of Haryana Govt. in the matter.

I.O.C. Offering equity to Foreign Companies

2739. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.O.C. is offering equity to foreign companies at its new refineries;

(b) whether any long term policy has been formulated by Government on the future role of I.O.C. in the Oil refineries sector;

(c) to what extent are IOC's Oil refineries activities profitable;

(d) whether low productivity is a major problem for IOC refineries;

(e) whether study has been done on the impact of the refineries sector of IOC on its distribution efficiency; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) yes. Sir. Govt. has approved on 14.7.98 setting up of a 9 MMTPA grassroot refinery at Abhayachandrapur, Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crore based on May, 1998 prices through Joint Venture Company between Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). The

equity participation in the JV Company (JVC) will be as under:—

IOC	—Rs. 860 crore (26%)
KPC	—Rs. 860 crore (26%)
Public including 3rd parties	— Rs. 1588 crore (48%)

(b) and (c) The main activity of refineries is to process/refine crude oil and produce marketable petroleum products. The total capacity utilisation is more than 100% in the last three years and all refineries have earned profit before interest and tax.

(d) The productivity parameters *viz.* capacity utilisation and refinery throughput per employee indicate capacity utilisation of more than 100% on overall basis for the last 3 years (1995-96 to 1997-98) and throughput per employee increasing from 3047 per tonne in 1995-96 to 3405 per tonne in 1997-98.

(e) and (f) Distribution efficiency studies are carried out from time to time to indentify need for various infranstructural requirement including augmentation of refining capacities.

In accordance with such studies, Paradeep in Orissa was identified as a location for a refinery primarily to meet the deficit in Orissa, parts of Bihar, Eastern MP and Eastern UP. The Eastern India Refinery Project (EIRP) of IOC at Paradeep has been planned keeping in this view.

Welfare Schemes Undertaken by Oil Companies

2740. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps undertaken by ONGC, OIL and IOC, etc. for social and educational development of Assam during the preceding five years; and

(b) the details of allocations made for each of these steps during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As part of their social obligations ONGC, OIL and IOC are incurring expenditure from year to year on social and educational devleopment in Assam. The details of allocations made for each of these steps are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 56]

Piped Gas in Gujarat

2741. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PETEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a plan under consideration of Government to supply piped gas to Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar and Surat in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it will be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. In view of shortage of availability of natural gas, there is no such plan under consideration of the Government of India.

बिहार में पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के संवितरण हेतु एजेंसियों का चयन

2742. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों पेट्रोल एवं गैस की एजेंसी के लिए सामान्य तथा अन्य श्रेणियों में किन-किन स्थानों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए गए हैं;

(ख) बिहार में साक्षात्कार के लिए कितने चयन बोर्डों की आवश्यकता है तथा कितने गठित किए जा चुके हैं और शेष के कब तक गठित किए जाने की संभावना है; और